

CLAIMS

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1. A hydrogen absorbing alloy having a CaCu₅ type crystal structure in its principal phase, comprising La in the range of 24 to 33% by weight in the alloy, and Mg or Ca in the range of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight in the alloy.

2. A hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1, further comprising 9% by weight or less of Co in the alloy.

3. A hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1, further comprising 6% by weight or less of Co in the alloy.

4. A hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1, wherein the Co content is 6 to 9% by weight, and the atomic ratio B/A is 5.0 to 5.25, where A represents a rare earth element including La, and B represents a rare earth element, transition metal or Al.

5. A hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1, further comprising one or more ^{elements} selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr and V.

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6. A hydrogen absorbing alloy having a CaCu₅ type crystal structure in its principal phase, comprising Mg and having a-axis length of 4.990 to 5.050 Å and c-axis length of 4.030 to 4.070 Å for the lattice constants in the CaCu₅ type crystal structure.

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7. A hydrogen absorbing alloy according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 4~~ having a-axis length of 4.990 to 5.050 Å and

